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Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are the source of light and peace, and we praise You for giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Thank You for the blessings of freedom and a government that seeks to empower people with liberty. Thank You for blessing us with lawmakers who strive to know what is right and to do it. Thank You also for the gift of forgiveness, for You daily meet our need for moral and spiritual renewal. Lord, use our Senators today. Show them Your path and teach them Your ways. Keep them so completely under Your rulership that they will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 7, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, are we in a quorum call?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. No, we are not. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1, S. 2, S. 3, S. 4, S. 5, S. 6, S. 7, S. 8, S. 9, S. 10, S. 33, and S. 34

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are 12 bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to create jobs, restore economic growth, and strengthen America's middle class through measures that modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2) to improve the lives of middle class families and provide them with greater opportunity to achieve the American dream.

A bill (S. 3) to protect homeowners and consumers by reducing foreclosures, ensur-

ing the availability of credit for homeowners, businesses, and consumers, and reforming the financial regulatory system, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 4) to guarantee affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 5) to improve the economy and security of the United States by reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign and unsustainable energy sources and the risks of global warming, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 6) to restore and enhance the national security of the United States.

A bill (S. 7) to expand educational opportunities for all Americans by increasing access to high-quality early childhood education and after school programs, advancing reform in elementary and secondary education, strengthening mathematics and science instruction, and ensuring that higher education is more affordable, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 8) to return the Government to the people by reviewing controversial "midnight regulations" issued in the waning days of the Bush Administration.

A bill (S. 9) to strengthen the United States economy, provide for more effective border and employment enforcement, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 10) to restore fiscal discipline and begin to address the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 33) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the proper tax treatment of certain indebtedness discharged in 2009 or 2010, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 34) to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar en bloc.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 22

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 22 was introduced earlier today by Senator BINGAMAN. It is my understanding that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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